



PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Freddie Joe Booker, 51, formerly of Beloit, Wisconsin, was re-sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John Shabaz to 30 years in prison without parole for possessing more than 50 grams of crack cocaine with the intent to distribute it and distributing crack cocaine. Booker was convicted of these charges on September 23, 2003, following a two-day jury trial.

In imposing his original sentence on December 2, 2003, Judge Shabaz found Booker responsible for possessing and/or distributing 658.5 grams of crack cocaine in January and February 2003. Booker's sentence was increased because Judge Shabaz found that Booker committed perjury in his trial testimony. Booker appealed his sentence and it was overturned by the United States Supreme Court based on the mandatory application of the Sentencing Guidelines.

In re-sentencing Booker today, Shabaz detailed Booker's extensive criminal history which began in 1971 when Booker was 17 years old. Judge Shabaz noted that many of the crimes were violent and that they escalated as he got older. Given Booker's extensive criminal history, the amount of crack cocaine, and Booker's trial perjury, Judge Shabaz found an advisory guideline range of 360 months to life.

Booker argued to the court that he should be released after 20 years because he would be 70 years old and too old to commit crimes. Judge Shabaz stated that based on Booker's history, he had no doubt that Booker would be one of the small percentage of older people who would re-offend. Booker also argued that he should not be kept in prison for longer than 20 years because of the high cost of incarcerating older prisoners. Judge Shabaz noted the cost of keeping Booker incarcerated was money well spent given the number of victims who would be saved.

The charges against Booker were the result of an investigation conducted by the Beloit Police Department. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Elizabeth Altman and John Vaudreuil.

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